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LETTER DATED 24 JUNE 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, and with reference to the letter from the Permanent Representative of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and issued on 7 June 1996 as document S/1996/410, I should like to inform you of the following.

1. The statements contained in the letter from the representative of Iraq are incorrect and mere allegations, which are repeated from time to time in an attempt to divert the attention of the international community from the Iraqi regime's failure to implement its obligations pursuant to Security Council resolutions.

2. The above-mentioned letter contains fabrications which are disproved by the facts and the evidence. For example, the letter mentioned "a patrol boat flying the flags of Kuwait and of the United Nations". However, Kuwaiti coast guard patrol boats fly only the Kuwaiti flag, and never fly any other flag. Further, the boats bear clear and distinct markings and numbers which are easily recognizable.

3. After an on-site investigation into these allegations conducted by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), we were informed that absolutely no information could be found to substantiate the allegations.

4. Such allegations, whose purposes are quite transparent, reaffirm the pressing need for UNIKOM forces to have a very visible naval presence on Kuwait's maritime borders with Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Permanent Representative

96-15841 (E) 260696 260696 270696